



The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

Contact: Joshua Lavar Butler, Communications Director

Phone: (928) 871-6384

Cell: (928) 255-2946

Fax: (928) 871-7255

joshualavarbutler@navajo.org

joshualavarbutler@yahoo.com

www.navajonationcouncil.org

January 29, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speaker Morgan encourages President Shirley to sign \$1 million appropriation for emergency relief

Legislation still sits on Navajo President Joe Shirley Jr.'s desk

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Three days have passed since the Navajo Nation Council appropriated \$1 million on Jan. 26 for emergency relief funds to chapters across the Navajo Nation and the legislation still sits on Navajo President Joe Shirley Jr.'s desk being reviewed.

Navajo Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan is encouraging President Shirley to sign the legislation to funnel the desperately needed funds for emergency relief efforts across the Nation.

"The Council appropriated this money as an emergency and it's still being reviewed by the President and his office," Morgan said. "On Jan. 21, the President and the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management declared a state of emergency because of the severe winter weather conditions, but funds are being held up with the delay of the President's signature. We need to get this money funneled quickly – we need to help our Navajo people suffering from the weather conditions."

The emergency funds are to come from the Nation's Personnel Lapse Fund. The funds, once approved by the Navajo President, will be used to provide relief to all chapters -- specifically for those that have experienced the impact of the latest weather storms.

The Emergency Operation Center reported continued search and rescue missions in the Kinlichee and Klagetoh areas today. It was also reported the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Forest Management and the Arizona Incident Management Division 4 team will continue working to locate people who have not been contacted yet and those who are in need of basic supplies.

The Navajo Nation Council concluded its 2010 winter session today and left disappointed after being notified of the delay in approving the emergency funds.

###